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RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 7905  
INFO RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH AFB UK  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 001272

SIPDIS

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DOE FOR GPERSON, CGAY  
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS, SRENENDER, DFIELDS  
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS  
STATE PASS USTR FOR ASST USTR SLISER  
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD  
STATE PASS OPIC FOR ZHAN AND MSTUCKART  
STATE PASS TDA FOR NCABOT  
STATE PASS EXIM FOR JRICHTER  
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/10/2016

TAGS: [EPET](#) [ENERG](#) [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: SHELL LOGISTICS BASE IN BAYELSA STATE ATTACKED BY YOUTHS

Classified By: Consul General Brian Browne for Reasons 1.4 (D,E)

11. (C) Summary: The seven expatriate employees of ExxonMobil contractors kidnapped October 3 remain hostages. On October 10, youths attacked a small naval facility and neighboring Shell logistics base in Bayelsa State; 10-20 Shell and Shell contractor employees, none of them Americans, are being held by the youths. End Summary.

Seven Employees of ExxonMobil Contractors Remain Hostage  
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12. (U) Seven expatriate employees of contractors for ExxonMobil kidnapped October 3 remain in captivity. Negotiations are ongoing. No American citizens are involved in the incident.

Shell Logistics Base Attacked  
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13. (C) Early October 10, approximately forty-five youths in three speedboats attacked a Nigerian small naval outpost near the Nun River in Bayelsa State, disarming ten on-duty naval personnel and pilfering their uniforms. We have been unable to confirm whether the naval personnel are being held. The attack against the naval facility was apparently done to allow the assailants to perform their next act unhindered by possibility of any quick GON military response. Departing the naval station, the youths then traveled to the adjacent Shell field logistics base near Brass. Olav Lijosne, Regional External Affairs Manager for Shell Exploration and Production, (protect) said from 10-20 Shell employees and contractors' employees are being held captive in the facility; none of the hostages are Americans.

14. (C) Lijosne said, although there was shooting during the incident, he knew of no casualties or injuries. According to Lijosne, the Government of Bayelsa State is conducting the negotiations with the youths. The youths are demanding local

community development that will generate employment, and an environmental project.

#### Deaths from Vandalized Pipeline Reported

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¶5. ThisDay newspaper reported on October 10 that six persons died trying to scoop petrol from a vandalized pipeline in Ogale-Elеме, Rivers State on October 7.

#### Bodies of Slain Soldiers Recovered?

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¶6. (C) The Tribune in an October 10 article reported that six corpses had been found floating in Bille Creek near the Cawthorne Channel, the location of a deadly gun battle on October 2 in which 14 Joint Task Force (JTF) personnel died. Military sources told MilAtt that 23 soldiers had been killed in the early October series of incidents.

#### Military Fires on Journalist in Creeks

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¶7. (C) On October 9, Patrick Naagabanton, a Nigerian journalist, told Pol/EconOff that military forces near Abonema creek in Rivers State shot at him. Neither Naagabanton nor any of his companions were injured.

¶8. (C) Comment: The October 10 takeover of the Shell facility near Brass appears to be the work of local youths seeking jobs and development for their home communities. Although not identified with any militant group, they are well armed and sufficiently knowledgeable about tactics and the local area to have carried out this two-pronged attack.

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In doing so they exhibited the capability not only to plan, but execute a coordinated attack against a military unit and civilian compound. End Comment.  
BROWNE